

Just **TEN MINUTES IN TENTH GRADE**

SUPPORT

HB 5446, SEC 3

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Just last spring a young girl abandoned her newborn behind a small grocery store. In 2014, a panicked East Hartford teen mother suffocated her baby at birth.

Neither knew that there is a baby Safe Haven Law in Connecticut.

By *teaching* the baby Safe Havens Law in high schools distressed mothers or families will know that they have a safe and confidential option will save lives.

This simple law needs to be taught so that future generations will learn that if someone is unable to keep a newborn (for whatever the reason), the infant can be taken to any of the thirty-seven Emergency Rooms around CT.

NO questions need to be answered, and there is anonymity for the parent, person and baby. A matching wrist bracelet will be given to the adult.

After the infant has a clean bill of health the baby is placed in a pre-approved adoptive home. If over the next 30 days the drop off adult changes their mind they can return with the bracelet and begin the process of reclaiming the infant.

This legislature passed a great law but did not find a way to share it!

~ This needs to be done in perpetuity to save lives. ~

The suggestion is to teach baby the Safe Haven Law in high school health class, or other class, giving a brief overview of the important information.**

Very little time and expense is needed to share this lifesaving law.

***The mandate would actually NOT have a cost as the materials about the law, a poster and flyer, are on the DCF website ready to be downloaded.*

One happy number to share is that to date, DCF says 33 babies are safe and sound because of this great law, which was passed in 2000, because wonderful people like you spread the word.
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NOTE: in a few instances birth parents have returned days later to claim their parental rights and have gotten the baby back.

SAVE TWO LIVES each time Safe Havens is used!
The baby is safe and the parent is not charged with abandonment or worse!

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Coordinator, the Baby Safe Havens Working Group March 12, 2018